



## Cochise County Board of Supervisors

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August 25, 2015

Paul Enriquez  
Acting Director  
Real Estate and Environmental Services Division  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington DC 20229

RE: Protection of Flying H Ranch for Water Mitigation

Dear Mr. Enriquez:

We understand that U.S. Customs and Border Protection is working with The Trust for Public Land on a project to protect the Flying H Ranch through purchase of a conservation easement on the property, with plans that the property would then be sold to the adjacent San Jose Ranch for management as part of that ranch's livestock operations. This would be done to provide mitigation of water in the Sierra Vista subwatershed (a component of the San Pedro River watershed) by preventing likely future residential development and associated water consumption on the Flying H Ranch. The project therefore should contribute to protection of water supply for the San Pedro River and species that rely on that river.

Cochise County strongly supports this plan proposed by CBP for protection of the Flying H Ranch.

Protection of the water supply for the San Pedro River, both for protection of wildlife and ensuring continued economic viability of the area (that provided, for example, by the continued operation of Fort Huachuca) is of great importance to the County. To that end, we have been cooperating with the Fort, local businesses, communities and other conservation groups like The Nature Conservancy on projects to improve future water supply and recharge the aquifer. We welcome other projects that will further that objective like this one proposed by Customs and Border Protection for the Flying H Ranch.

Additionally, the Ladd family, who owns the San Jose Ranch, is recognized as excellent steward of their lands, and we believe that their ownership of the Flying H Ranch will be very beneficial for the property and enable this land to both be protected and stay in active agricultural use.

Sincerely,

Patrick G. Call  
Chairman  
District 1

Ann English  
Vice-Chairman  
District 2

Richard R. Searle  
Member  
District 3

cc:  
Michael Patrick, The Trust for Public Land  
John Ladd, San Jose Ranch